

PAPERS READ :—

DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO LIZARDS OF GENERA NEW
TO AUSTRALIAN HERPETOLOGY.

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SCINCIDÆ.

TROPIDOPHORUS QUEENSLANDIÆ, n.sp.

Anterior head-shields rugose ; those of the parietal and occipital regions nearly smooth. Frontonasals two, thick, convex, deeply sulcated. An azygos shield between the prefrontals ; prefrontals and anterior portion of frontal similar. Prefrontals and frontals together about equal in length to the shields posterior to them. The frontals porous in structure microscopically, thin, with a few minute irregularly disposed raised lines and tubercles on the surface ; the shields rather obscurely defined as frontoparietals (two), interparietal and occipitals : the interparietal a little longer than the frontoparietal and with the "pineal eye" speck as a glistening, apparently semitranslucent cornea contrasting with the surrounding surface. Supraoculars five, subequal, strongly ribbed longitudinally ; supraciliaries seven, limited posteriorly by the last and smallest supraocular ; a row of keeled scales below the eye. Upper labials five. An azygos postmental. Tympanum as long as the eye-slit. Scales in 32-34 rows ; dorsals in 10 rows, of which the median rows are the smallest, the laterals largest ; all with strong tectiform keels forming continuous subspinose lines. Scales of the flanks smaller than the lateral dorsals, similarly keeled, in longitudinal lines ; of the upper surface of the tail much larger, more feebly keeled but mucronate and forming spinous ridges ; of the temples like those of the middle of the back ; of

the throat and sides of the neck small and similarly keeled; of the abdomen as large as the lateral dorsals but with linear central keels becoming mucronate on the lower surface of the tail. Two large preanals. Tail rounded: about a fourth longer than the head and body. Subdigital lamellæ simple. The protracted hind limb reaches the retracted elbow. Teeth obtuse, molar-like. Dark brown above, with faint alternate cross-bands of paler brown and fuscous; beneath pale dingy brown. Chin dark brown with white band-like spots; preanals white; base of tail beneath marbled with white. Total length 125 mm., tail 70, head 17, width of head 9, of body 11, fore limb 17, hind limb 25.

Locality.—Herberton and Bellenden Ker, in scrubs.

The nearest relative of this lizard is *T. grayi*, Gth., of the Philippine Islands. The obtuseness of the teeth and rudimentary conditions of the posterior head-shields may possibly lead to the establishment of a new genus for its reception.

GECKONIDÆ.

PEROCHIRUS MESTONI, n.sp.

Head rather depressed, a little convex on the frontal and concave on the parietal region. Snout obtusely pointed, longer than the postocular portion of the head and nearly twice the diameter of the eye. Body rotund, limbs short and massive; digits short, broad, almost free and all dilated; the thumb and outer toe moderately developed and furnished with very small claws; the free phalanges of the fourth toe much shorter than the diameter of the eye. Ear opening small, round. Rostral (injured) apparently thrice as broad as high; mental subrhomboidal, its posterior angle entering between a pair of moderately elongate postmentals which are followed by a pair of smaller ones; between these are granular scales larger than those of the throat. Head with granules which are larger on the snout than on the crown. Upper surface and throat with small granules somewhat larger than those of the

crown. Abdomen with imbricated scales of moderate size. Tail, if not reproduced, round, fusiform, tapering, about as long as the head and body, covered with imbricated scales about as large as the abdominals; on the median line below a series of elongate transverse scutes commencing caudad of a seeming line of fracture near the base. No femoral or preanal pores. Above vinous-grey, flecked and stained with dark grey; below dull purple. Length 106 mm., head 15, tail 52, fore limb 14, hind limb 18, width of head 11.

Locality.—Bellenden Ker; collected by Mr. A. Meston.

I do not conceive that the greater degree of development of the imperfect digits and the presence of subcaudal scutes, if normal, are valid objections to this lizard being referred to *Perochirus*.